

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 MANAGU 02419 252241Z  
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 HA-05 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15  
CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 PA-02 ICA-20 L-03  
H-02 OMB-01 AID-05 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 /098 W  
-----118840 260815Z /20

R 252200Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6680  
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA  
AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE  
AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR  
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

UNCLAS MANAGUA 2419

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PINT, SHUM, NU  
SUBJECT: PUBLIC STATEMENT BY ARCHBISHOP OF MANAGUA

1. 16 MAY LA PRENSA CONTAINED INTERVIEW WITH MONSEIGNEUR MIGUEL OBANDO Y BRAVO, ARCHBISHOP OF MANAGUA. SUBJECT OF INTERVIEW WAS THE CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN NICARAGUA.

2. ARCHBISHOP STATED THAT "HUMAN LIFE ISN'T WORTH A PENNY IN NICARAGUA." "THE CHURCH," HE WENT ON, "IS PROFOUNDLY CONCERNED TO SEE THAT, HERE, HUMAN LIFE IS NO LONGER RESPECTED." THE ARCHBISHOP STATED THAT THE OCCURRENCES OF THE PAST FOUR MONTHS -ESPECIALLY THE TWO CHAMORRO ASSASSINATIONS - HAVE REVEALED THE "TOTAL LACK OF JUSTICE WHICH PREVAILS THROUGHOUT THE SOMOZA REGIME." WHILE CONDEMNING THE CURRENT WAVE OF VIOLENCE, THE ARCHBISHOP CALLED IT "THE ... FERMENT LEADING TO SITUATIONS MORE EXPLOSIVE AND DANGEROUS TO THE SOCIAL, MORAL AND ECONOMIC SITUATION (OF NICARAGUA)."

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3. COMMENT: OBANDO'S INTERVIEW WAS GIVEN SHORTLY AFTER HIS RETURN FROM A TRIP TO THE VATICAN. THIS DRAMATIC STATEMENT IS UNUSUAL IN THAT OBANDO IS NORMALLY VERY CAUTIOUS IN HIS PUBLIC REMARKS. BY MAKING SUCH A RATUITIOUS STATEMENT HE APPEARS TO BE COMPROMISING HIS ROLE AS A MEDIATOR IN THE POLARIZED POLITICAL ENVIORNMENT.N THIS IS EXTREMELY UNFORTUNATE IN THAT HE HAS BEEN CITED BY MOST

OPPOSITIONISTS AS HAVING A POTENTIALLY KEY ROLE TO PLAY  
IN PROMOTING A DIALOG WHEN AND IF THE OPPOSITION IS PREPARED  
FOR SUCH A STEP.  
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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, PRESS CONFERENCES, RELIGIOUS LEADERS, CHURCH STATE RELATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 25 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PUBLIC STATEMENT BY ARCHBISHOP OF MANAGUA  
**TAGS:** PINT, SHUM, SOPN, SCUL, NU, (OBANDO Y BRAVO, MIGUEL)  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014